

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 5, and 6, as follows. Please cancel claims 8-11.

Please add new claims 12-21.

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1. (Amended) An implantable port comprising
a base having a passage for receiving an access tube;
a valve assembly in the base, said valve assembly having a bore which
receives the access tube and wherein the valve assembly opens in response to movement
of the access tube;
a valve lock having a latch which shifts position to lock the valve
assembly open in response to movement of the access tube prior to seating of the access
tube in the bore of the valve assembly.

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5. (Amended) An implantable port as in claim 3, wherein the latch
comprises a pair of balls which are displaced laterally.

6. (Amended) An implantable port as in claim 1, wherein the valve
assembly comprises a valve selected from the group consisting of pinch valves, sliding
valves, slit valves, duckbill valves, and leaflet valves.

✓
Please cancel claims 8-11.

✓
Please add new claims 12-21 as follows.

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12. (New) An implantable port comprising
a base having a passage for receiving an access tube;
a valve assembly in the base, said valve assembly having a bore which
receives the access tube and wherein the valve assembly opens in response to movement
of the access tube; and
a valve lock having a latch which shifts position to lock the valve
assembly open in response to movement of the access tube;

wherein the valve assembly comprises a plunger and wherein the latch comprises a pair of space-filling elements which are displaced by the needle both downwardly, to lower the plunger to open the valve, and outwardly into the receptacle, to lock the plunger open.

13. (New) An implantable port as in claim 12, wherein the valve assembly opens in response to motion of a needle against the plunger.

14. (New) An implantable port as in claim 13, wherein the space-filling elements comprise a pair of balls which are displaced laterally.

15. (New) An implantable port as in claim 12, wherein the valve assembly is selected from the group consisting of pinch valves, sliding valves, slit valves, duckbill valves, and leaflet valves.

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16. (New) An implantable port as in claim 12, wherein the bore comprises a tapered bore which seals against the access tube as said tube is inserted therein.

17. (New) An implantable port comprising
a base having a passage for receiving an access tube;
a valve assembly in the base, said valve assembly having a bore which receives the access tube and wherein the valve assembly opens in response to movement of the access tube;

a valve lock having a latch comprising a pair of balls which are displaced laterally into a receptacle and remain in the receptacle to lock the valve assembly open in response to movement of the access tube.

18. (New) An implantable port as in claim 17, wherein the valve assembly opens in response to motion of a needle.

19. (New) An implantable port as in claim 17, wherein the valve assembly comprises a plunger and wherein the pair of balls is displaced both downwardly, to lower the plunger to open the valve, and outwardly into the receptacle, to lock the plunger open.

20. (New) An implantable port as in claim 17, wherein the valve assembly comprises a valve selected from the group consisting of pinch valves, sliding valves, slit valves, duckbill valves, and leaflet valves.

21. (New) An implantable port as in claim 17, wherein the bore comprises a tapered bore which seals against the access tube as said tube is inserted therein.

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please add new Fig. 3B, as shown in Exhibit A. The figure in Exhibit A is informal, and Applicants will prepare the drawing formally after it has been approved.